

To: Hon. Ajit Pai, et. al
Federal Communications Commission
Re: WT Docket No. 16-239, Amateur Radio Symbol Rate NPRM
Date: 9 December 2018

I join in the comments of Amateur Radio Safety Foundation, Inc. concerning the proposed rulemaking subject of the above-referenced docket.

Those who oppose the restructuring of HF symbol Rate restrictions are misinformed or intentionally misstate how the proposed rule would enable hostile or criminal actors. The current symbol rate restrictions impede technological development and efficient use of the spectrum allocated to the Amateur Radio service, and serve to impede experimentation and the invaluable technological contributions of today's radio amateurs. To me this threat is far greater than those conjured up by those opposed to the proposed rule.

I too am experienced in the use of digital communications, including near daily use of Winlink and FT8. These modes are proving themselves to be the only effective and practical ways to accurately communicate using often crowded amateur radio frequencies especially during periods of poor propagation.

I urge the Commission to adopt the proposed rule and remove the current 300 baud data rate limit and, further, to adopt a 2.8 kHz occupied bandwidth standard for wide bandwidth digital signals.

Respectfully submitted, Dennis Niles, WV7S